



2005 VERMONT TAX STATISTICS

A Summary of

- PERSONAL INCOME TAX RETURNS
- FAMILY INCOME STATISTICS
- SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENTS
- HOMEOWNER REBATES
- RENTER REBATES

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www.state.vt.us/tax/statistics.shtml

2005 VERMONT TAX STATISTICS

A Summary of Calendar Year 2005 Income Tax Returns and Property Tax Adjustment Claims Filed in 2006

Personal Income Tax

| | Page |
|---|------|
| State Totals | |
| Summary of number of returns by income class | 1 |
| Summary of income, tax and credits by adjusted gross income class | 2 |
| Summary of income, tax and credits by taxable income class | 3 |
| Distribution of age 65 and over returns by income class..... | 4 |
| Distribution of under age 65 returns by income class..... | 5 |
| County Totals | |
| Summary of numbers of returns | 6 |
| Summary of amount of income, tax and credits | 7 |
| Distribution of returns by income class | 8 |
| Summary of age 65 and over returns | 16 |
| Distribution of age 65 and over returns by income class..... | 17 |
| Town Totals | |
| Summary of numbers of returns | 25 |
| Summary of amount of income, tax and credits | 33 |
| Family Income Statistics by State, County, Town | 42 |
| <i>Property Tax Adjustment</i> | |
| <u>2006</u> School Property Tax Adjustments by income class | 52 |
| Homeowner Rebates by income class | 61 |
| Renter Rebates by income class..... | 66 |
| Property Tax Adjustments and Rebates Summary by Town..... | 72 |

Published by the Vermont Department of Taxes, December 2006

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Source data is information provided on individual tax returns. Adjusted gross income (AGI), filing status, exemptions and reporting town are informational and not used to compute tax liability. Checks were made to assure reasonableness of this information, especially for high values of AGI and reporting town consistency with homestead declarations, but not all returns were examined. For returns with missing AGI values and non-zero taxable income values, AGI was imputed using information from other returns. Caution should be exercised when using this data to make inferences about small jurisdictions.

Summary statistics are not reported for groups smaller than four to protect taxpayer confidentiality. The goal is to maximize reporting of total data for a town, with less or no income class detail as necessary.

Definitions for individual data items follow, associated with the report page where they first appear. The definition is the same on all following reports unless otherwise noted.

Page 1: Return Counts

AGI Income Class: The Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) range for the return.

Returns: The number of returns filed for the income class.

Exempt: The number of exemptions claimed on returns filed within the income class.

Married Joint, Single, Married Separate, Head of Household, Civil Union Joint, Civil Union

Separate: The filing status¹ of the return. For reporting below the state level, civil union designations are included with married joint or married separate categories.

Credits: The number of taxpayers claiming a credit for taxes paid to another state or Vermont non-refundable tax credits.

Withheld: The number of taxpayers taking credit on their return for Vermont withholding tax.

Estimated: The number of taxpayers taking credit on their return for Vermont estimated tax payments, real estate withholding, non-resident shareholder withholding, or low income child and dependent care credit.

Adjusted Tax: The number of taxpayers reducing their Vermont tax by using the adjustment schedule to exclude income not subject to Vermont tax.

No Tax: The number of taxpayers who had no income tax liability after reducing their Adjusted Tax by Vermont special credits and credit from other states.

Earned Income Credit: The number of Vermont earned income tax credits.

Page 2: Return Dollars

AGI Income Class: The Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) range for the return.

Adjusted Gross Income: The total Federal Adjusted Gross Income reported on all tax returns for the income class.

Vermont Adjusted Gross Income: The total AGI earned in Vermont (Line 39 of Form IN-113 for filers using income adjustment; otherwise Federal AGI).

Vermont Tax²: Line 16 of the Vermont Income Tax return, before any additions to or subtractions from tax.

Adjusted Vermont Tax³: Line 22 of the Vermont Income Tax return (Line 20 multiplied by the income adjustment percent on Line 21).

Credits: The dollar amount of credit for taxes paid to another state or province or Vermont non-refundable tax credits.

Net Vermont Tax: Adjusted Vermont Tax reduced by Vermont non-refundable tax credits.

Earned Income Credit: The dollar amount of Vermont earned income tax credit⁴.

Page 3: Taxable Income Summary

Taxable Income Class: The Taxable Income range for the return.

Returns with TI Adjustment: The number of returns with any entry on lines 12 through 14 (adjustments to Federal Taxable Income for Vermont purposes).

Federal Taxable Income: The total Federal Taxable Income reported on line 11.

Taxable Income Adjustments: The total Taxable Income adjustments reported on lines 12 through 14.

Vermont Taxable Income⁵: The total Taxable Income reported on line 15 of tax returns for an income class.

Page 7: County Summary - Dollars

Average AGI per Exemption: The Capped AGI (sum of the adjusted gross income, limited to the first \$150,000⁶ on any return for all returns filed) divided by the number of exemptions. This is an estimate of per-capita income.

Page 42: Family Income Statistics

Returns: The number of returns with Married Joint (MJ) or Head of Household (HH) filing status. This group provides an estimate of household or family income.

Median AGI per Return: The adjusted gross income amount that falls in the middle of a range of adjusted gross income amounts reported when the amounts are arranged in order of magnitude.

Please note that this estimate of family income comes only from tax returns and thus does not measure income of households not required to file a tax return.

Page 52: 2006 School Property Tax Adjustments Distribution by Income Class

Household Income Class: The Household Income range for the return. This column also contains a breakdown of the three ways that the school property tax adjustment could be computed:

- Homestead (HS) Exemption or HEV includes those homeowners who qualified under the Homestead Exclusion method, where the adjustment is based on the first \$15,000 of homestead value. Per VSA Title 32, §6066(a)(1)(c), this method was limited to household incomes of \$47,000 or less starting in FY 2005 - i.e., 2004 Prebates.
- Income or HIP includes those homeowners who qualified under the Household Income method, where the adjustment is based on a maximum percentage of household income payable for school property taxes.
- For homeowners with household incomes between \$85,001 and approximately \$106,000, a third method was used which capped the allowable homestead property tax at the amount on the first \$200,000 of homestead value, then applied a second test on maximum percentage of household income.

Number of Filers: Total number of valid claims reported for taxable year.

Filers with Extra Acreage: Total number of claims with an additional adjustment based on the number of acres above two, up to seven. An adjustment of \$10 per whole acre up to \$50 was added.

Average Household Income: Average of Household Income as reported on Line t of Form HI-144. Household Income is the total taxable and nontaxable income reported by the taxpayer and individuals who resided with the taxpayer at any time during the taxable year. Household income does not include gifts, government aid, the first \$6,500 of dependent parent or student earned income, social security tax withheld or paid, child support payments or income received from state for foster care or support of a developmentally disabled person. For a complete definition of Household Income refer to VSA Title 32, §6061.

Median Equalized Homestead Value: Median value of homestead plus two acres after application of the town common level of appraisal.

Total Homestead School Tax: Average amount of homestead school property taxes before adjustments.

Adjusted Homestead School Tax: Average amount of maximum homestead school taxes to be paid by homeowners after adjusting for income sensitivity provisions.

Page 61: Homeowner Rebates Distribution by Income Class

Starting in 2002, calculation of the Homeowner Rebate amount was decoupled from the decision to apply for school property tax adjustments ("prebates"). If a prebate had been issued the previous year, the amount claimed for school and municipal taxes was reduced by that benefit. Otherwise, the entire amount of school and municipal taxes is used in the calculation. For this latter group (those without a prebate the previous year), the aggregate Homeowner Rebate amount and average benefit will appear substantially larger than in annual statistics prior to 2002. These two groups have been separately identified at the state level. Note that county and town summaries still contain the mixed population and are thus not directly comparable to statistics from years prior to 2002.

Homestead School Tax (Total and Adjusted): Average amount of homestead school property tax before and after application of income sensitivity. The difference between these two values reflects any adjustment under the School Property Tax Adjustment program. The adjusted school tax plus municipal tax forms the basis for computation of taxes eligible for the homeowner rebate.

Average Rebate Eligible Taxes: Average amount of municipal and total municipal plus adjusted school taxes. Total taxes will generally be the sum of adjusted school tax and municipal tax, but for mobile home lot renters, it will also contain an allocable amount of the lot rent for taxes.

Average Homeowner Rebate: Average amount of rebate.

Total Homeowner Rebate: Total amount of homeowner rebate.

Page 66: Renter Rebates Distribution by Income Class

Average Allowable Rent for Taxes: Allocable property tax paid on the rental unit during taxable year as reported on Line 1 of Form PR-141, Vermont Renter Rebate Claim. This is 21 percent of total rent paid during the calendar year, or the allocable property tax portion of the rent if higher.

Average Renter Rebate: Total Renter Rebate amount divided by number of total valid applications.

Total Renter Rebate: Total Renter Rebate as calculated for Line 9 on Form PR-141, Vermont Renter Rebate Claim.

For further information, please contact:

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¹ Filing status of Qualifying Widow(er) is included with Married Joint.

² This summary statistic was added for the 2002 tax year. It reflects the tax computed on Taxable Income (line 15) before any adjustments.

³ Statistical summaries prior to the 2002 tax year called this amount "Vermont Tax".

⁴ The rate of computation for this credit was increased effective with the 2000 tax year from 25% to 32% of the federal earned income tax credit amount.

⁵ Previous statistical summaries called this amount "Taxable Income".

⁶ Previous definition of this statistic was in VSA Title 16, §3480, repealed in 1997 as part of the revision to the school funding formula. The \$150,000 cap on income represented approximately the 99th percentile of incomes in Vermont in 1986 when the statute was amended to specify average income, but was not subsequently adjusted for inflation. The Tax Department will continue to report this statistic using the \$150,000 cap (which still characterizes in excess of 95% of Vermont returns) for continuity with previously reported data.